

Soldiers Communications.

ST. CHARLES, KANE CO., ILL., Feb. 17, 1881.

Editor National Tribune:

DEAR SIR: I am one of the unfortunate Union Soldiers, who has applied for a pension. For three years my case has been before the Pension Office. It has cost me \$21.15 in postage stamps for securing witnesses, and to get necessary evidence and papers to the Pension Office. It has been fourteen years since I commenced my search for this evidence. It was twelve years before I found any of the parties needed. The regimental surgeon was dead. I continued search till I found the first assistant surgeon, and after that I found the first sergeant and one comrade. While searching, I learned that seven of those who could have testified in my favor had died. I served two years heartily and well, never attending a sick call during that time. Then I became afflicted with the bilious fever, fever and ague, became deaf in my right ear and then had a sun stroke. At last all my evidence seemed complete and all legally acknowledged by officers in different counties in three different States. Now, let me ask a question. Suppose I am a liar or villain, or the two surgeons, first sergeant and one private, also four neighbors and all those officers of justice and both surgeons before whom I was ordered by the Commissioner, are the all liars and villains? Does it look as if I could bribe men, some of them fifteen hundred miles away and I unable to support myself, my wife unable to aid me and our five children? Is it a shame for me to say that the county has rendered most of my support for some time? If it is a shame let that shame be placed where it belongs, upon the present head of the Pension Office, and the power that keeps him in place. With a constitution shattered, health forever gone, abundant evidence that I deserve a pension, I am denied it. Twenty years ago the soldiers were petted and prized, now they appear to be forsaken. When shall we have a man at the head of the Pension Office who will do us justice?

Yours faithfully,

INVALID EX-SOLDIER.

WELLS BRIDGE, OTSEGO CO., N. Y., Feb. 10, 1881.

Editor National Tribune:

DEAR SIR: I desire to state a few facts that may reach the eye of John A. Bentley, the man who cannot have a heart in sympathy with the those who saved this Nation—men whom we should honor and respect. Can money atone for life? Can it pay for loss of health? The writer of these lines is no stranger to the perils of war. He has stood before the mouths of rebel cannon. Was it for the small sum of \$13 per month that I left all that was near and dear to me to march on to rebel soil? Could money tempt me to again pass through those terrible years in the army? No, no, never. Oh, my old comrades, if the present Commissioner of Pensions could be placed where we have been on the battle-field, hear the walls and cries and groans of the dying and wounded, I think he would feel differently toward us. Never can I forget one at Pleasant Hill, April 9, 1864, if I was to live a thousand years. Such exclamations as the following are still ringing in my ears: "Oh! for God's sake bring me some water." "Where is the Twenty-fourth Iowa?" "Lord, where is the Fourth Texas?" "Come, Twentieth Arkansas, bring me some fire—I'm freezing." "My God, I'm dying! Oh! where are there any Fifteenth Illinois?" A little further on and you hear a muttering voice: "Forward, men, forward—there they are—fire on them—lie down—there they come, up and after them—charge—there they go, follow them." These words come from one in the garb of a rebel officer. There he lies with a ghastly wound in his head—now he gasps and expires. The man who is witness to scenes like these understands what a soldier is called upon to pass through. Such an one ought to be the Commissioner of Pensions and then his heart would not be cold and stern at the recital of what a soldier suffered.

Yours truly,

EX-SOLDIER.

CANTON, PA., Feb. 11, 1881.

Editor of the National Tribune:

DEAR SIR: I have just heard from our great G. A. R. Convention at Pittsburgh, Pa. We sent delegates. Mr Bentley was to appear there and deliver one of his strong speeches, but he failed to connect—probably because he learned that less than one-fourth of the Post organizations were in favor of his great Medico-Legal, Federal and Confederate Invalid Corps. I tell you that although the most of the old veterans have lost their health, they have not lost the use of their brains yet, and many of them really believe that if an able veteran were placed in the Pension Office who was disposed to do full justice as far as he knew how—that if he would throw out the old colonels and keep nothing but good, sound, honest material for clerks, and try and use the old laws once in a while, and really try to do the fair thing—harmony would prevail and justice too. The law now in force appears to be good enough for us to conform to, but the other side want something a little stronger to brace them up. Mr Bentley appears to be able to purchase the influence of our Grand Lodge officers, but he can't almost purchase or bulldoze the comrades of the G. A. R. We can suffer slander and injustice at his hands, but when he calls on us to adopt his views and call him our leader he certainly takes the wrong pig by the ear. We admit that we have lost our manly strength, but we have not lost our brains, and while we have them there is no chance of his ever becoming our apostle, even if he controls all the Grand Lodge officers from Maine to Texas. Yours truly,

W.

The Weekly.

The following letter is akin to very many more we are now receiving:

DAUPHIN, PA., January 22, 1881.

Editor of The National Tribune:

SIR: I have been a subscriber to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE for two years, and I would not be without it for any reasonable consideration. Also, THE TRIBUNE clock, which I have had in use for one year, and can recommend it as a good timekeeper. In response to your query in the October issue: "Would you like to have the paper weekly?" Yes; most emphatically yes; let us have it weekly, and if it costs two dollars, let us have it. I trust in the near future you will be able to furnish us with THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE. Inclosed please find fifty cents for renewal of subscription. Wishing you still greater success with your paper, I remain yours truly,

HENRY FRANK, Ex-soldier.

Men Employed to Crush the Rebellion.

American volunteers.....	1,523,267
German volunteers.....	177,817
Irish volunteers.....	144,221
British American volunteers.....	43,532
English volunteers.....	45,508
Other foreigners, volunteers.....	48,410
Drafted.....	521,068
Total.....	2,512,823

Number of Soldiers Buried in National Cemeteries.

White soldiers, names known.....	151,237
" " " unknown.....	117,678
Colored " " known.....	13,176
" " " unknown.....	20,043
Unknown and unclassified.....	3,258
Total.....	2305,49

The Proposed New Apportionment.

HON. S. S. COX, of New York, has introduced a bill in the House of Representatives apportioning the Representatives under the new census. The total number of mem-

bers under this bill is 301, and apportioned to the States as follows:

Alabama, 8; Arkansas, 5; California, 5; Colorado, 1; Connecticut, 4; Delaware, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 9; Illinois, 19; Iowa, 10; Indiana, 12; Kansas, 6; Kentucky, 10; Louisiana, 6; Maine, 4; Maryland, 6; Massachusetts, 11; Michigan, 10; Minnesota, 5; Mississippi, 7; Missouri, 13; Nebraska, 3; Nevada, 1; New Hampshire, 2; New Jersey, 7; New York, 21; North Carolina, 8; Ohio, 19; Oregon, 1; Pennsylvania, 26; Rhode Island, 2; South Carolina, 6; Tennessee, 9; Texas, 10; Vermont, 2; Virginia, 9; West Virginia, 4; and Wisconsin, 8. As compared with the present number of members, this bill makes the following losses and gains: Arkansas, California, Iowa, Michigan, Mississippi, South Carolina and West Virginia, gain 1 each; Kansas gains 3; Texas 4; Minnesota and Nebraska gain 2 each; Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Hampshire, Maine, Indiana, Tennessee, Florida and Vermont, lose 1 each; and New York loses 2.

The Florence Cemetery.

In answer to a correspondent, we furnish the information conveyed in the following letter:

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY,
WASHINGTON, D. C., January 10, 1881.

Editor of The National Tribune:

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 8th instant you are informed that there is a national cemetery at Florence, S. C., in which are buried the remains of Union soldiers who died in prison at that place. Their graves are marked with marble headstones, with names of those identified inscribed thereon. Of these, however, there are but few, and the graves of the "unknown," which comprise the greater portion, are marked only with marble black, bearing inscription of the number of grave.

If you can give us the name of the soldier referred to, stating the regiment and company to which he belonged, we may be able to furnish you information regarding his place of burial.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. F. BENJAMIN,

Capt. and A. Q. M. U. S. Army, in charge of National Cemeteries.

A Soldier's Well-deserved Rebuke.

We extract the following from a letter to THE TRIBUNE from a soldier living at Moweaqua, Illinois:

"In all the courts of justice and equity in this country save one—the Pension Bureau—the accused is regarded as being innocent until his guilt is clearly shown by evidence. In the Pension Office the reverse is the case. In the eyes of the honorable Commissioner the act of merely presenting a claim for what is justly due a disabled soldier and for the payment of which Congress has made ample provision, constitutes the soldier a fraud, a cheat, and a perjured villain. A remedy must and will be found for such a state of things as I allude to, but it cannot be found in the civil service reform prated about so much. Comrades, let us have your suggestions as to the remedy."

The Battle Book.

The following named persons are the remaining ones who sent us 25 cents for the Battle Book we had not encouraged enough to publish, and who are entitled to said 25 cents or six months' subscription to THE TRIBUNE. Write your wishes about the matter:

C. H. Dorr, Old Forge, Pa.; J. M. Frazier, Metuchen, N. J.; H. Gilbert, Conajoharie, N. Y.; C. H. Haynes, Morrisville, N. Y.; John R. McD., Cleveland, Torrington, Conn.; Mrs. Thos. Richardson, Waterman, Iowa; E. H. Lathrop, Hastings, Mich.; Dwight, Toogood, Pleasant Grove, Minn., and David Noyes, Manchester, New Jersey.

What a Leading Kansas Paper says.

THE Commissioner of Pensions is John A. Bentley. Whether he is a good or bad official we do not pretend to say, but he is a civilian and should not hold his position so long as there is a competent ex-soldier living. No man who was not a soldier in the United States army during the late war should have this or any similar office. It is a disgrace to any Republican administration to keep a civilian in an office that should be filled by an ex-soldier. For this reason at least, we hope to see Bentley bounced by Gen. Garfield.

We are opposed to the adoption of Senate bill No. 496, known as the sixty-surgeon bill. There are two good and valid reasons why an ex-soldier should oppose this bill on general principles, first it was introduced by Senator Withers of Virginia, any ex-rebel who has no sympathy with a Union soldier and second the bill if passed will make rebelsurgeons eligible for examining officers. Matters are coming to a pretty pass when an ex rebel shall be empowered to pass upon the claims of a Union Soldier for a pension. Any Republican senator or representative who would vote for such a measure deserves to be kicked to death by grasshoppers and to be devoured by Turkey buzzards.—Bulletin, Sterling, Kas.

A Long Lost Son.

Mrs. Harriet L. Gage, of Alexander, Rush County, Kansas, wishes to find her long lost son. He was sent one evening on an errand to the village store by his mother, living at that time in Fillmore township, Allegan County, Michigan, purchased the things sent for and started for home. Since then he has never been heard from. This was ten years ago, and the boy, if living, is now twenty years old. He had light complexion, blue eyes, dark brown hair, and probably is about five feet, six inches tall. His full name is Henry Martin Gage. Any person who can give any clue to the whereabouts of this child, or any statement as to his fate, will greatly oblige an afflicted mother by writing her.

A CERTAIN English general, being at the point of death, opened his eyes, and seeing a consultation of four physicians, who were standing close by his bedside, faintly exclaimed, "Gentlemen, if you fire in platoons it's all over with me," and instantly expired.

Correspondents' Column.

We are obliged to answer certain inquiries of the same nature in each issue of our paper. While we cheerfully furnish information to subscribers, in this column, we suggest that much labor, time and expense may be saved both to ourselves and to our correspondents, if the latter and other subscribers would keep a file of the paper. They could then, at any time, turn to the file and probably find the very inquiry answered about which they would have written to us. We trust that each and every subscriber will profit by this suggestion.

CHAS. C. H., NEW BRITAIN, CONN.—If, as appears to have been the case, you were mustered out and paid off with your command, the \$100 original bounty was doubtless paid you at time of discharge; but if you were away from your command when discharged, and without a complete "Descriptive list," it is possible, though not probable, that you did not receive the bounty.

V. S., DUNLOP, KANSAS.—Veterinary Surgeons are not entitled to bounty. If you received \$100 original bounty the paymaster who paid it was ignorant of the rules and regulations governing in such cases.

E. J., MAUCKPORT, IND.—Your case is not embraced in the class referred to.

S. S. P., HUME, ILL.—1. Your claim ought, in all reason, to have been settled by this time and if you have promptly furnished all required evidence you have a right to expect a disposition of your case at an early date. Request your member of Congress to call your case to the attention of the Commissioner of Pensions. 2. The late widow of deceased soldier, who has remarried, was entitled to the extra pension for such of her children by him as were under sixteen years of age July 25, 1866, (or at the date of his death if it occurred subsequent to that date) from said date until they respectively attained the age of sixteen. If, at date of widow's remarriage, any of the children were under sixteen they may have title to pension from the date of their mother's remarriage up to date they attained that age.

N. N.—1. The sailor's widow would receive, after his death, provided his death was due to his naval service, the rate of pension provided by law for the widow of a seaman of his grade. As you do not give the sailor's rating, I cannot say what the rate of widow's pension would be. The widow would receive \$2 a month extra for each of the children until they become sixteen years of age. 2. The pensioned ex-soldier, to whom you refer, was entitled to the increased rating only from the date of his examination therefor. He is not entitled to the increase from date of discharge.

B. J. C., LOUISVILLE, KY.—The quartermaster's vouchers and those for services on court-martial, can be collected.

C. W. S., KNOX CO., TENN.—Claims for property taken by the U. S. Army, in States not in insurrection during the late war if filed prior to January 1, 1880, can be prosecuted and collected upon the necessary proof being adduced.

E. J. JR., CLEVELAND, OHIO.—The circumstances attending the loss of your private horse in the service are somewhat peculiar, but if you send full particulars to some competent attorney we think you can recover. (See advertisements in this paper.)

P. F., THIRD V. V. CAV.—We should advise you to get your claim for horse lost in the service filed at once, as there is little doubt but that the present bar to their consideration will eventually be repealed, and in that case, claims filed will have precedence over those not presented.

A. T. T., YONKERS, N. Y.—The pay proper of a captain of volunteer infantry in 1865 was \$60. He was allowed four rations (commuted), \$36; monthly commutation allowance for servant, \$22.50, aggregating \$118.50 a month. This would make the value of a ration thirty cents. He was also allowed \$10 a month additional for the responsibility of clothing, arms and accoutrements, when actually in command of company.

W. C., MEADVILLE, PA.—Those who enlisted subsequent to July 18, 1864, became entitled only to the installments of bounty which had accrued at the time of discharge, unless discharged on account of wound or injury (not disease), in which event they became entitled to full bounty. It appears that you enlisted for one year and received \$66 $\frac{2}{3}$ bounty, and, not serving your full term, the third installment was not your due.

"ATTORNEY," DENISON, IOWA.—Soldiers are entitled to twenty five cents a day for the period they were held prisoners of war, and a like allowance for the period properly absent on furlough, provided they put their furloughs in evidence.

P. T., PINE LEVEL, FLA.—Under a special provision of the law, teamsters are entitled to land warrant for service in the war of 1812, the war with Mexico, and the various Indian wars prior to March 3, 1855; also, volunteers who served with the armed forces but were not mustered into the service are entitled; also those who volunteered to serve during the invasion of Plattsburg, but were not regularly mustered into the service; but the classes of persons above referred to are not entitled to a pension.

SAML. S., CADIZ, OHIO.—A law was in force until January 1, 1876, to pay for horses and equipments lost in service. Claims which were not filed in the proper department prior to that date are now barred. An effort was made during last Congress to have a law continuing the time for paying such claims enacted, but the bill did not become a law. The same bill has been introduced in the present Congress, and will probably receive favorable consideration and become a law. You should place your claim in the hand of a competent claim attorney without delay. [See advertisement in this paper.]

JOHN D., DART, ILL.—You are not entitled to compensation for clothing and valuables lost in battle or taken from you while a prisoner of war.

E. McM., NORFOLK, VA.—One commissioned officer or two enlisted men are required in a pension claim to corroborate claimant's statement as to the time when, places where, and circumstances under which the alleged disability was contracted.